



UNC Wilmington



# School of Nursing Newsletter

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Early Fall Issue

September 2011

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## Upcoming Fall Dates:

**Sept. 12:** SON Faculty Meeting.  
1051 McNeill Hall. 3:30-5 p.m.

**Sept. 19:** RN-BSN Council Meeting.  
1038 McNeill Hall. 3-4 p.m.

**Sept. 20:** Sigma Theta Tau Board Meeting.  
1022 McNeill Hall. 5-6 p.m.

**Oct. 3:** SON Faculty Meeting.  
1051 McNeill Hall. 3:30-5 p.m.

**Oct. 9-10:** Fall break. No classes.

**Oct. 17:** Prelicensure Council.  
1038 McNeill Hall. 3-4 p.m.

**Oct. 19:** CHHS Convocation.  
McNeill Hall. 3 - 5 p.m.

**Nov. 3:** Sigma Theta Tau Induction Ceremony. Lecture Hall and  
1051 McNeill Hall. 4-7 p.m.

**Nov. 14:** SON Faculty Meeting.  
1051 McNeill Hall. 3:30-5 p.m.

**Nov. 21:** Prelicensure/RN-BSN Council Meeting.  
1038 McNeill Hall. 3-4 p.m.

**Nov. 23-25:** Thanksgiving Holiday. No classes.

**Dec. 7:** Last day of classes.

**Dec. 9-15:** Final Exams.

**Dec. 12:** SON Faculty Meeting.  
1051 McNeill Hall. 3:30-5 p.m.

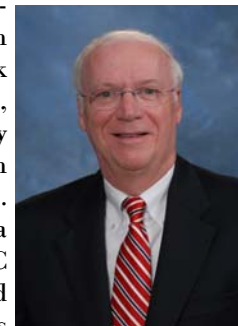
**Dec. 15:** Fall 2011 semester ends.

**Dec. 16:** Graduation Recognition and Awards Ceremony. Kenan Auditorium. 7 p.m.

*Please submit items of interest, calendar events, notable achievements, community events and questions you may have for our faculty and staff to our editorial/production staff: Sandy O'Donnell or Debra Simpson.*

## Greetings from the Director

In July, '10, the new College of Health and Human Services was implemented. The School of Nursing is one of the three professional schools in the new College. The other two schools include the School of Social Work and the School of Health and Applied Human Services. On July 1, '11, the new Dean of the College, **Charles Hardy**, was appointed. **Hardy** comes from Georgia Southern University, where he was founding Dean of the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health. **Hardy** holds a Ph.D. from Louisiana State University in kinesiology/psychology and was a post-doctoral research fellow in exercise and sport science at UNC Chapel Hill. The School of Nursing (SON) welcomes **Dean Hardy** and supports his efforts in making the new College a major success. Efforts are underway to fully develop the vision, mission and objectives of the new College.



The academic year is up and running. Fifty new pre-licensure students were admitted for the May '13 cohort. One hundred and fifty two applicants qualified for admission to the SON (average GPA was 3.297). The average GPA for those admitted was 3.545. Forty new RN to BSN were admitted along with 22 new MSN students. The new Master of Science program in Clinical Research and Product Development admitted seven new students.

One new full-time faculty member was hired: **Nasrin Falsafi**, who will be teaching mental health theory and serve as a clinical instructor to our pre-licensure students. Part-time faculty were hired: **Kelly Laham**, who will assist with prelicensure medical/surgical and mental health clinicals, and **Christy Simmerman**, who will assist with pediatric clinicals. Despite budget constraints, the SON faculty and staff continue to service our students with total quality and commitment to academic excellence.

## Quality Enhancement Plan

The School of Nursing (SON) was awarded \$25,310 from the Office of Academic Affairs to conduct research to support UNCW's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). QEP is a long-term, university-wide project meant to improve, enrich, and enhance student learning experiences. The process of formulating the QEP is required for the university to receive re-accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) in 2013. The SON was one of only five projects awarded funds for a QEP pilot project through a university-wide competitive process. The purpose of the SON project is to pilot a standardized framework for evaluating the influence of applied and service-learning experiences on nursing students' problem solving, critical thinking, and community service self-efficacy. First semester seniors and RN-BS students enrolled in the community health nursing course will be invited to participate. The School of Nursing faculty who are working with the UNCW QEP Task Force include **Janie Canty Mitchell (Project Director)**, **Soo Kim-Godwin**, **Kae Livsey**, **Carol Heinrich**, **Debbie Ezzell**, and **Carol Highsmith**. More information on the UNCW QEP can be found at: <http://www.uncw.edu/QEP/>.

## Notable Recognition:



**RuthAnne Kuiper** (pictured left) was selected as a 2011 Academy of Nursing Education Fellow of the National League for Nursing. The induction ceremony for the fifth class of fellows will be held Sept. 24, '11 during the 2011 NLN Education Summit in Orlando, Florida.

**Brandy Mechling** (pictured right) has been selected the UNCW Lecturer of the Year. This highly competitive award honors extraordinary teaching abilities reflected in the classroom and the esteem in which faculty members are held by their peers. A formal ceremony recognizing Mechling's accomplishments was held during the fall faculty meeting on Sept. 1.



**Soo Kim-Godwin** received the UNCW Center for Teaching Excellence Summer 2011 Pedagogy Development Initiative Award.

## Notable Achievements

Congratulations to **April Matthias** on her graduation July 29, '11 with a PhD in Nursing from East Carolina University. Matthias' dissertation research was entitled *Reframing Disorder: Gender, Class, and the History of the Resurfacing Debate in Nursing*. She used historical case study design to examine the resurfacing debate regarding multiple-entry levels to RN practice and specifically researched the first diploma, BSN, and ADN programs. Her research will be presented at the Feb. '12 Southern Nursing Research Society Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana.



## Congratulations to the May Class of 2011 for NCLEX Success!

The latest cohort to take the NCLEX, the May Class of 2011, has achieved a 97% passage rate to date! Congratulations on this outstanding achievement.

## Wilmington RIBN

Due to the anticipated nursing workforce shortage, the increasing severity of patients and the increased demand for future nursing faculty, the Regionally Increasing Baccalaureate Nurses (RIBN) project has been created. This project allows 10 students per year to be admitted to the Wilmington program which involves a partnership between UNCW and Cape Fear Community College (CFCC). Students are dually admitted to nursing programs at both schools. The first three years of nursing education are at CFCC (both general studies and nursing courses) followed by a year of study at UNCW (gerontological and community health nursing, use of evidenced based nursing knowledge and leadership development). After the completion of the fourth year at UNCW students achieve the BSN degree.

The Wilmington RIBN program, funded by the NC Foundation of Nursing Excellence, will begin in the Fall of 2012.

## Honors Advanced Research Seminar

There is a course designed specifically for the SON Department Honors students: Advanced Research Seminar (NSG 492-001) It is being offered in this current semester. Honors students are eligible to enroll in the course concurrently while working on their Honors research project. This course is also open to non-honors students who are interested in conducting an independent research study with the permission of the instructor. Eligible students could enroll the course prior to starting their honors research project (NSG 499). The course is a completely web-based course. However, one-on-one monthly meetings with the instructor are also offered for students to meet for individual assistance.

## Farewell to Camp BONES

The School of Nursing faculty and staff said farewell to **Cynthia Meredith** on Aug. 31, '11. We appreciate Cyndi's support and coordination for the Camp BONES program for four years. During her tenure, the SON was able to support six cohorts of middle and high school students from seven southeastern counties. The students in the 2006, 2007, and 2008 cohorts completed the four-year program. Six students in the 2008 cohort completed the three-week Nurse Aid I intensive from June 12 through July 1; 100% passed the Nurse Aid I certification and are now included on the NC Nurse Aid Registry.

On Sept. 10 from 10am-noon, the SON will celebrate the success of the Camp BONES program and to recognize the most recent graduates (pictured left): **Olivia Brown, Andrea Age, Julio Fritze, Jessica Bowen, Jasmine Williams and Brianah Williams.**

All cohorts and community partners have been invited to participate in this culminating event, which will also recognize **Cyndi Meredith** for her exceptional service to the Camp BONES program. The event will be held in McNeill Hall, Room 1051. Please RSVP to **Deborah Strothers** at [strothersd@uncw.edu](mailto:strothersd@uncw.edu).



## Simulation News



In the year since the Simulation Learning Center (SLC) opened total student usage increased by 152 hours while individual student contacts increased by 500. Twenty eight official tours occurred over the span of 12 months in addition to numerous informal tours. Innovative uses of the SLC by internal and external groups are being explored on a regular basis with the assistance of **Stephanie Smith**, Coordinator of External Programs.

Susie®, a high fidelity female simulator with drug recognition, has been added to the inventory along with Information Technology equipment to better support functionality of monitors and computers. Development of the SON Electronic Medical Record (EMR) continued over the summer through partnership with **Clay-**

**ton Ferner** of CIS. Ten more laptops have been added to the SLC to allow computerized documentation by multiple students at one time.

Tours were conducted throughout the summer, including one for a nursing professor from Japan who saw potential for disaster training within the Home Care Lab as a site for disaster training of nursing students. In addition, Camp BONES and the Gear Up program conducted several middle and high school enrichment activities.

With the beginning of the fall 2011 semester, the SLC continues to expand its offerings to students and community groups to enrich education through the use of simulation pedagogy.



## New Technology Consultants Assigned to McNeill Hall

The Department of Classroom and Client Technologies Services (CCTS) has assigned **Jim Moravansky** and **Mark Grover** as the McNeill Hall building consultants. Together they have over 20+ years in microcomputer maintenance and support. **Moravansky** and **Grover** are available for assistance throughout the semester. Individuals seeking help are encouraged to view the self-service Ask TAC knowledge base at <https://asktac.uncw.edu> or contact the TAC at 910.962.HELP (4357).



## Welcome to Our Newest Faculty



We welcome **Nasrin Falsafi**, RN, Ph.D., PMHCNS-BC, AHN-C, (pictured left), who has recently been appointed assistant professor specializing in mental health nursing. She is certified as a Psychiatric Clinical Nurse Specialist and an Advanced Holistic Nurse.

**Falsafi** holds a Ph.D. in nursing from the Catholic University of America and a Masters degree in Psychiatric Nursing from UCLA. Her BSN is from Shiraz University in Iran. She also completed the Post-Master's Certificate Program in Nursing Informatics from University of Maryland in Baltimore. She worked in some of the major institutions in the Washington-Baltimore area including the Johns Hopkins Hospital, University of Maryland, Washington Hospital Center, and the Catholic University of America in Washington DC.

**Falsafi's** areas of expertise include post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), anxiety disorders, eating disorders, grief and loss, and crisis management. She is also an expert in the practice of Holistic Nursing, which includes yoga, meditation, guided imagery, mindfulness, Reiki, hypnosis, and stress management.

The use of holistic approaches in the treatment of PTSD, anxiety and depression are among **Falsafi's** research interests. Her dissertation was entitled *Characteristics of Patients at Risk for Committing Violent Behavior* and she has published peer-reviewed articles in professional journals related to her specialties. **Falsafi's** hobbies and interests include traveling, hiking, swimming, reading, music and the arts.

We also welcome **Kelly Laham** (pictured right) as part-time clinical faculty. **Laham** received a BA in Arts Management, Performing Arts Concentration from Salem College and her BSN from Barton College. She earned her MSN with Adult Nurse Practitioner from East Carolina University. **Laham** has worked extensively in cardiology, medical surgical, community wellness and nursing education since 1995 and has worked as an Advanced Nurse Practitioner in cardiology and rural health. In '10 **Laham** was selected as a YWCA Woman of Achievement in Health and Wellness for her work in the rural community of Bolton, NC. While originally from Virginia, **Laham** has lived in Wilmington for 20 years. She is married with three children, loves playing tennis and being involved in community theatre.



Welcome to **Christy Simmerman** (pictured left with her young son), our newest part-time pediatric clinical faculty. **Simmerman** completed her MSN-NE from ECU in May '11 and in '03 completed her BS in biology from UNCW. **Simmerman** began her nursing career on an Antepartum/Mother-Baby/Gynecology Unit at Pitt Memorial hospital and for the past 3 years has worked at NHMRC in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. At home when not caring for her 10-month-old son, **Simmerman** enjoys playing tennis and running.

**Deborah Strothers** is the new Administrative Associate in the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs. She replaces **Linda Ferrell** who is now the Executive Associate to Dean **Charles Hardy**.

The office of Research and Sponsored Programs is pleased to announce that the following Psychology Department graduate students will serve as graduate assistants this semester: **Ashley Aiken, Rachel Goers, Jennifer Heaton, Louisa Leopard** and **Erin Lavender-Stott**.

Please submit calendar events, notable achievements, community events, research/scholarship activities and questions for faculty/staff to our editorial and production staff: **Sandy O'Donnell** (odonnells@uncw.edu) or **Debra Simpson** (simpsond@uncw.edu).

